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Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily

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EL SALVADOR:

Military Intensifying Operations

The government's operations against guerrilla strongholds and its efforts to improve cooperation with Honduras indicate that the military is intensifying its already aggressive efforts. (S-NF)

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The Army is using five elite US-trained battalions, supported by air and artillery, in sweeps north of the Torola River in Morazan Department and in the Guazapa Volcano area.

_____ in San Miguel Department, the 3rd Brigade on Monday sustained light casualties when repelling a large guerrilla attack on a coffee-processing plant. (C-NF)

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Meanwhile, the 4th Brigade in Chalatenango led by Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa, is moving into guerrilla-controlled areas. Ochoa is setting up civilian defense teams in traditional guerrilla havens to deny the insurgents free movement after the troops leave. (C-NF)

_____ the Air Force used two recently acquired C-47 gunships to repel a large rebel force last week in San Vicente

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The Honduran military _____

_____ has reinforced its border units. The general staffs of both countries are to meet in Honduras late this month and subsequently at a conference in San Salvador. (C-NF)

Comment: The military appears confident that it can make progress against the insurgents. It probably will intensify the level of offensive operations, perhaps through the legislative and municipal elections in March. (S-NF)

Signals from Honduras that it is interested in improving military cooperation may reflect Tegucigalpa's satisfaction with progress in border negotiations with San Salvador. (S-NF) ~~CIA, DIA, NSA~~

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